

MASTER OF
KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUPTM

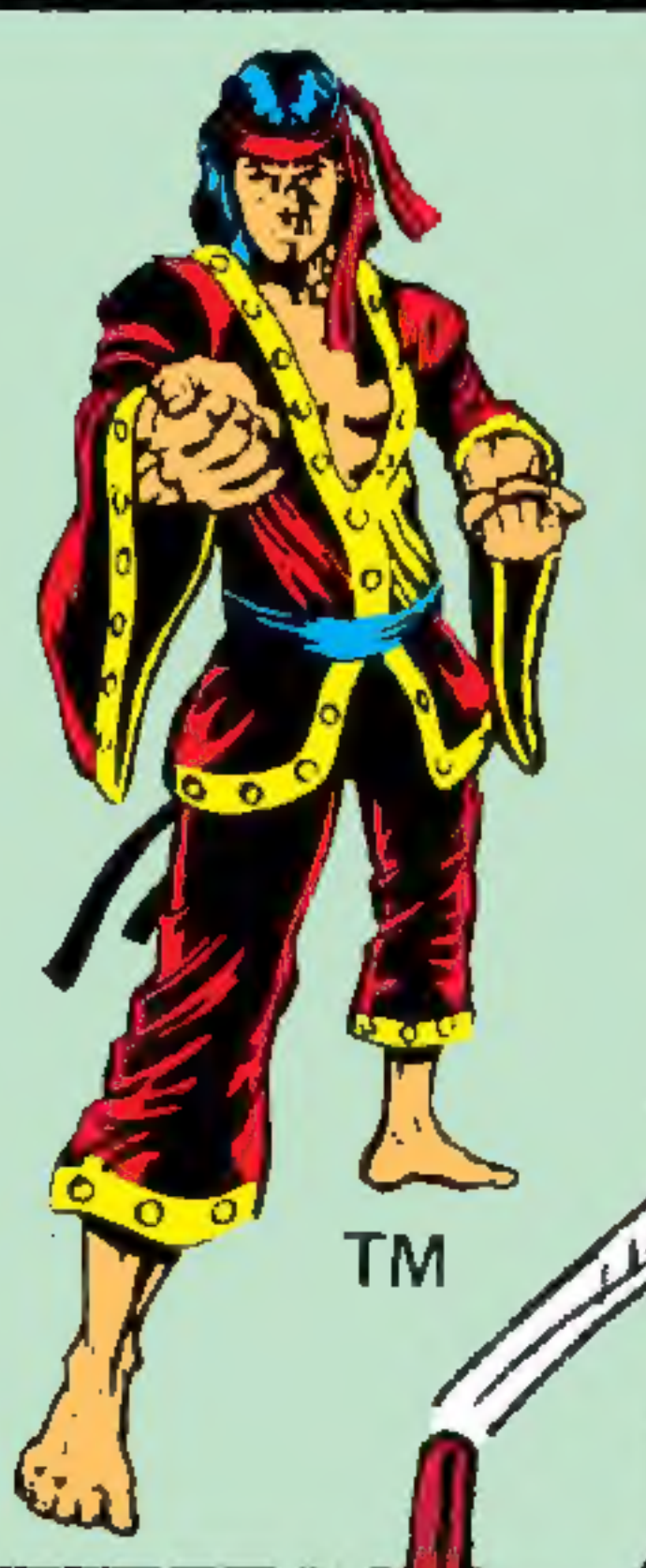
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THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI,

MASTER OF KUNG FU



SHANG CHI'S FIGHT AGAINST HIS
FATHER, FU MANCHU, CONTINUES ON
"THE BRIDGE OF
A THOUSAND
DOOMS!"

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my **father** did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father. Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu**, the most insidiously evil man on earth...and that to **honor** him would bring nothing but **dishonor** to the spirit of my **name**.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!**™

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

PART IV
(BLACK JACK TARR)

CITY *in the TOP of the* **WORLD**

"HOPE YOU CAN HEAR ME, SIR DENIS, CUZ SARFIELD'S THROAT TRANSMITTER FEELS LIKE AN ICE CUBE STUCK TO MY CHEST--AND I'D HATE TO CATCH THE CROUP FOR NOTHIN'."

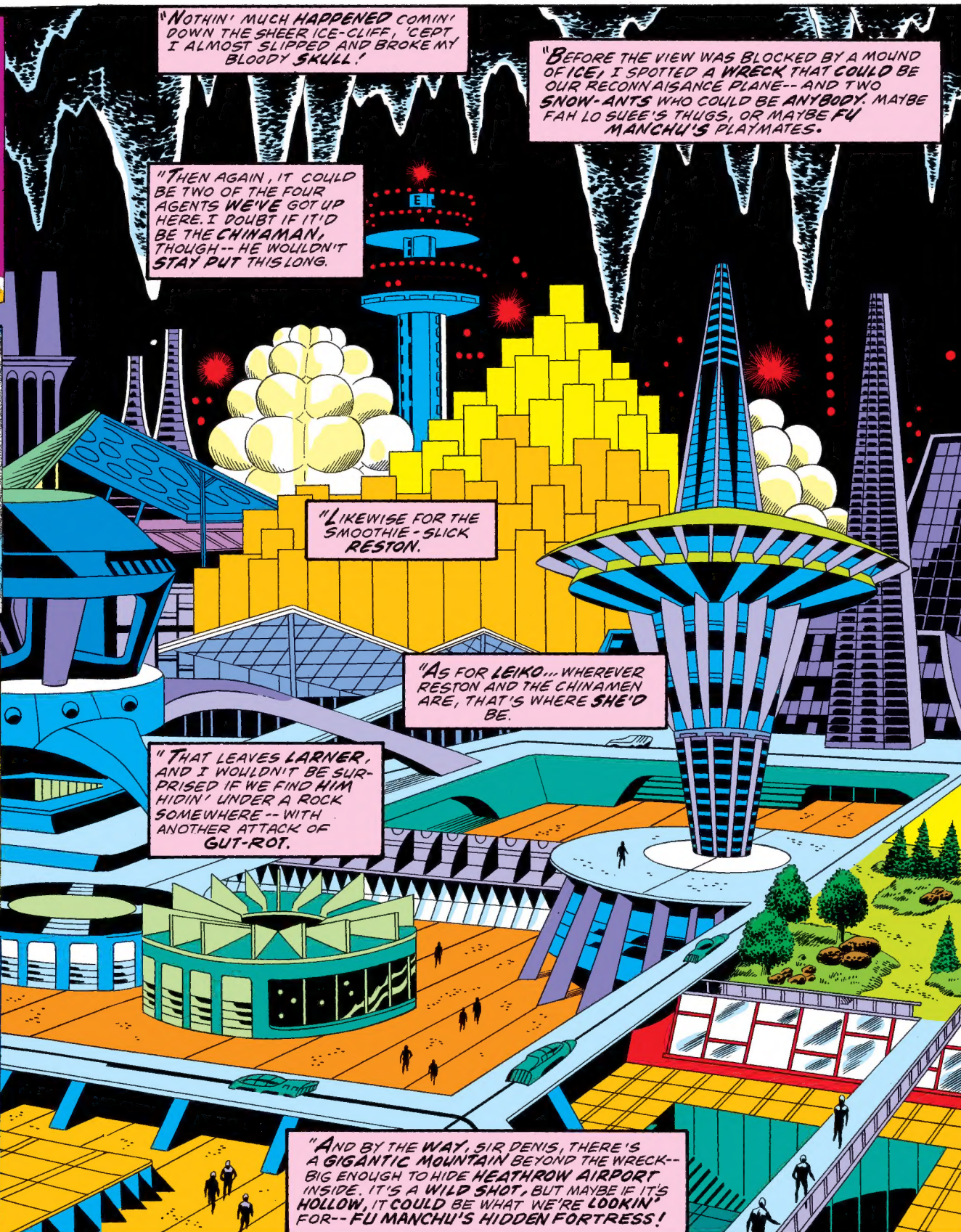
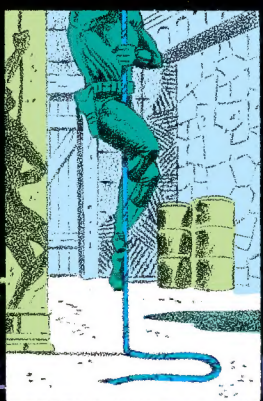
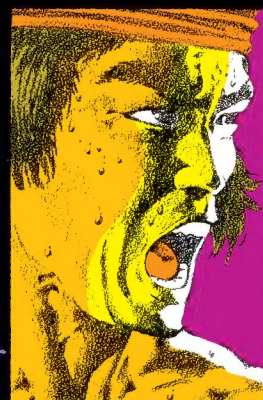
"TRANSPORT DROPPED ME RIGHT ON THE NOSE OF THE NORTH POLE, BUT THEY DIDN'T ACCOUNT FOR THE BLOODY WINDS!"

"I GOT SWEPT SMACK INTO THE SIDE OF A GIANT ICICLE. I'M DOWN NOW. COULDN'T SPARE THE BREATH TO REPORT WHILE I WUZ CLIMBING."



DOUG MOENCH / PAUL GULACY
WRITER / ARTIST
CO-PLOTTER / CO-PLOTTER

ABEL & MARCOS: INKER
DENISE WOHL: LETTERER
JANICE COHEN: COLORIST
ARCHIE GOODWIN: EDITOR



"NOTHIN' MUCH HAPPENED COMIN' DOWN THE SHEER ICE-CLIFF, 'CEPT I ALMOST SLIPPED AND BROKE MY BLOODY SKULL!"

"THEN AGAIN, IT COULD BE TWO OF THE FOUR AGENTS WE'VE GOT UP HERE. I DOUBT IF IT'D BE THE CHINAMAN, THOUGH-- HE WOULDN'T STAY PUT THIS LONG."

"BEFORE THE VIEW WAS BLOCKED BY A MOUND OF ICE, I SPOTTED A WRECK THAT COULD BE OUR RECONNAISSANCE PLANE-- AND TWO SNOW-ANTS WHO COULD BE ANYBODY. MAYBE FAH LO SUEE'S THUGS, OR MAYBE FU MANCHU'S PLAYMATES."

"LIKEWISE FOR THE SMOOTHIE-SLICK RESTON."

"AS FOR LEIKO... WHEREVER RESTON AND THE CHINAMEN ARE, THAT'S WHERE SHE'D BE."

"THAT LEAVES LARNER, AND I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF WE FIND HIM HIDIN' UNDER A ROCK SOMEWHERE-- WITH ANOTHER ATTACK OF GUT-ROT."

"AND BY THE WAY, SIR DENIS, THERE'S A GIGANTIC MOUNTAIN BEYOND THE WRECK-- BIG ENOUGH TO HIDE HEATHROW AIRPORT INSIDE. IT'S A WILD SHOT, BUT MAYBE IF IT'S HOLLOW, IT COULD BE WHAT WE'RE LOOKIN' FOR-- FU MANCHU'S HIDDEN FORTRESS!"



HEAR ME! ALL OF YOU. HEAR THE VOICE OF IMPERIAL **FU MANCHU**, AND KNOW THAT YOUR CHOICE HAS BEEN THE **PROPER** ONE. ONE WHICH WILL DIRECTLY LINK YOU TO THE **DESTINY OF THIS WORLD!**

I HAVE URGED YOU TO JOIN ME HERE AT THE VERY **TOP OF THE WORLD**, IN THE MOST **TECHNOLOGICALLY SUPERIOR CITY** EVER DEvised BY MAN.

I HAVE **PROMISED** THAT, IF YOU AGREED TO JOIN THE RANKS OF MY **NEW SI-FAN**, SWELLING THOSE RANKS TO THE **LARGEST ARMY IN HISTORY**, I WOULD THEN DEMONSTRATE MY UNSURPASSED **POWER** TO YOU, AND GRANT YOU THE **WORLD ITSELF!**

OTHERS WERE GIVEN THE SAME OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN US. THEY **REFUSED**, AND THEIR CHOICE WAS A **FATAL ONE**-- FOR THE WORLD IS DESTINED TO BE **OURS**, AND **OURS ALONE**.

SOON, **ALL OF EARTH** WILL BE NOTHING MORE AND NOTHING **LESS** THAN THE GLORY WHICH WAS **OLD CHINA!**

I TELL YOU **NOW** THAT THE TIME IS **NEAR**... AND BY THE DESTRUCTION OF **ONE WORLD**, WE SHALL **RULE ANOTHER**.



GETTIN' CLOSE TO THE **WRECK**, SIR DENIS, SO I'VE GOTTA **WHISPER!**

WE'LL SOON KNOW WHO THE TWO BIRDS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE **SNOW-DRIFT** ARE--



--SO WISH ME **LUCK**, 'CUZ **HERE GOES**.

ALL RIGHT! FREEZE, YOU BLOODY STINKING--



-- **LARNER?**



RIGHT THE **FIRST TIME**, TARR. IT'S JUST ME... AND **FAH LO SUEE**, OF COURSE.

YOU KNOW **FU MANCHU'S DAUGHTER**, DON'T YOU? WELL, SAY **GOOD MORNING** TO OUR NEW **ALLY AND INFORMANT**.



I AGREE, CLIVE. THERE MUST BE MORE TO THIS SYSTEM THAN JUST THIS SINGLE ICE-CAVERN.

AFTER ALL, THE ENTIRE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN OPENED UP TO LET OUT THAT SQUAD OF FU MANCHU'S SI-FAN.

THAT'S RIGHT, LEIKO DARLIN! WHICH MEANS THAT FU'S FORTRESS HAS TO BE HERE SOMEWHERE. IF ONLY WE COULD FIND A SIGN... A PATH OR A CORRIDOR OR--



A BOAT.

WHAT THE--?!

CHI'S RIGHT, DARLIN'. IT'S A BOAT, ALL RIGHT.

SOME BOAT. FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, I'D GUESS THAT IT'S FU MANCHU'S PERSONAL PLEASURE CRUISER.

AT LEAST IT'S WARMER HERE BY THE WATERWAY.



-- TELL ME WHAT THE DEVIL'S GOIN' ON HERE, LARNER. AND SPEAK UP SO'S SIR DENIS CAN HEAR YOU BACK IN LONDON.

THANKS FOR THE INVITE, TARR, BUT I THINK I'LL LET FAH LO SUEE SPILL THE BEANS.

INDEED, I AM FORCED TO REVEAL MY FATHER'S PLANS. YOU SEE, I WAS HOPED TO USURP HIS GAMBIT AND MAKE IT MY OWN. BUT NOW THAT I HAVE FAILED, I AM FATED TO DIE ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE WHO IS NOT ALLIED TO HIS CAUSE.

THUS, FOR THE SAKE OF MY OWN LIFE-- FU MANCHU MUST BE STOPPED.



MORE THAN **FIFTY YEARS** AGO, WHEN I WAS BUT A CHILD, AND LONG BEFORE I EVER TASTED OF THE IMMORTALITY SERUM CALLED **ELIXIR VITAE**--

--MY FATHER TOOK ME INTO HIS **CONFIDENCE** FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND HE SAID TO ME--

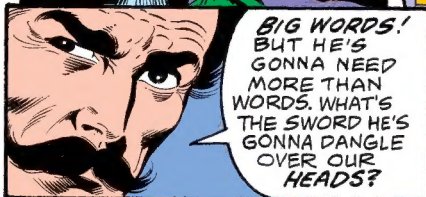


SOMEDAY I SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO MOVE **ONE** WORLD, MY DAUGHTER...

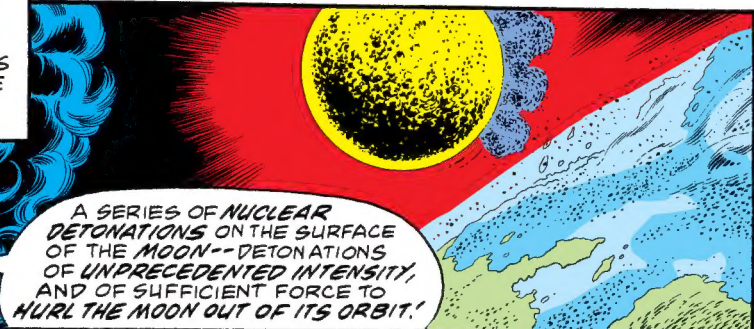
...AND THUS TO **RULE** ANOTHER!



I DID NOT KNOW WHAT MY FATHER **MEANT** THEN, BUT I DO **NOW**. HE INTENDS EITHER TO **BLACK-MAIL** THE ENTIRE WORLD INTO **SURRENDERING** TO HIM...OR TO SIMPLY **DECIMATE** THE WORLD'S POPULATION AND **RULE** OVER THE **REMAINING** **TEN PERCENT**.



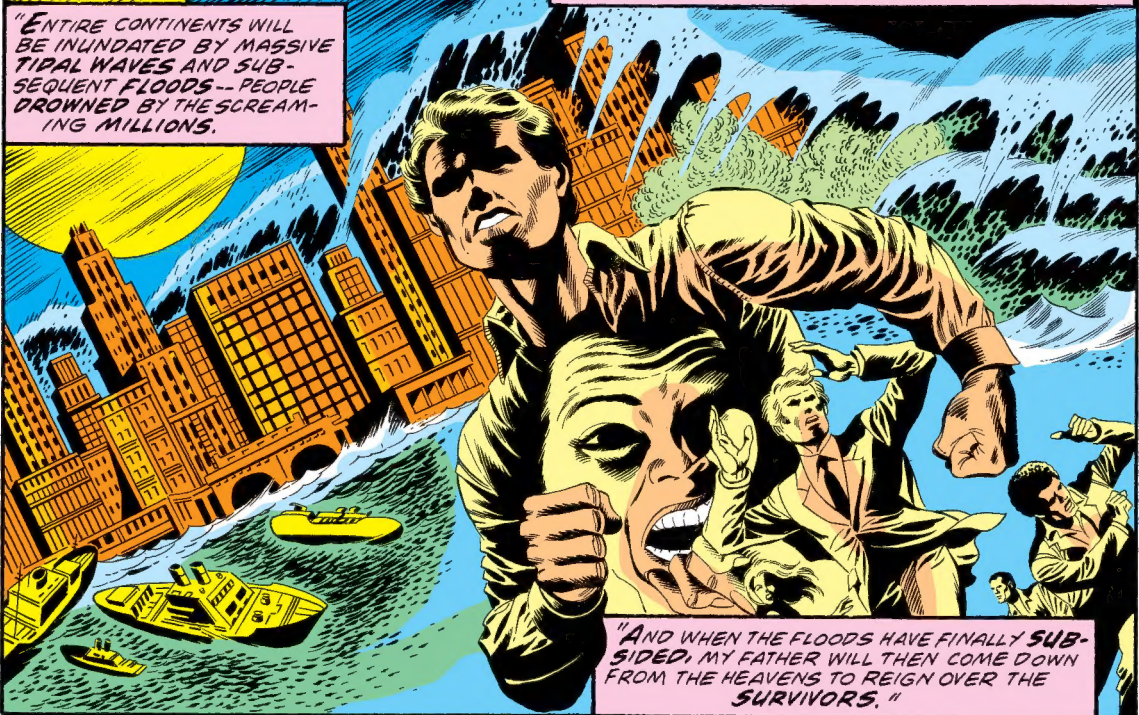
BIG WORDS! BUT HE'S GONNA NEED MORE THAN WORDS. WHAT'S THE SWORD HE'S GONNA DANGLE OVER OUR HEADS?



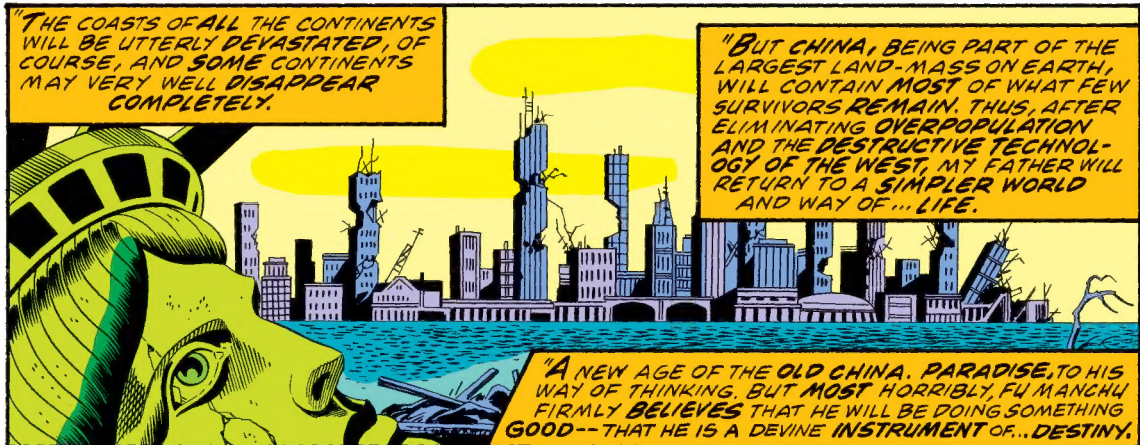
A SERIES OF **NUCLEAR DETONATIONS** ON THE SURFACE OF THE **MOON**--DETONATIONS OF **UNPRECEDENTED INTENSITY**, AND OF SUFFICIENT FORCE TO **HURL** THE **MOON** OUT OF ITS ORBIT.

"THE EFFECT OF THIS VIOLENT LOSS OF THE MOON AND IT'S GRAVITATIONAL PULL WILL CREATE INSTANT WIDE WORLD HAVOC.

"ENTIRE CONTINENTS WILL BE INUNDATED BY MASSIVE TIDAL WAVES AND SUBSEQUENT FLOODS--PEOPLE DROWNED BY THE SCREAMING MILLIONS.



"AND WHEN THE FLOODS HAVE FINALLY SUBSIDED, MY FATHER WILL THEN COME DOWN FROM THE HEAVENS TO REIGN OVER THE SURVIVORS."



"THE COASTS OF ALL THE CONTINENTS WILL BE UTTERLY DEVASTATED, OF COURSE, AND SOME CONTINENTS MAY VERY WELL DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY."

"BUT CHINA, BEING PART OF THE LARGEST LAND-MASS ON EARTH, WILL CONTAIN MOST OF WHAT FEW SURVIVORS REMAIN. THUS, AFTER ELIMINATING OVERPOPULATION AND THE DESTRUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY OF THE WEST, MY FATHER WILL RETURN TO A SIMPLER WORLD AND WAY OF... LIFE."

"A NEW AGE OF THE OLD CHINA. PARADISE, TO HIS WAY OF THINKING, BUT MOST HORRIBLY, FU MANCHU FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT HE WILL BE DOING SOMETHING GOOD-- THAT HE IS A DIVINE INSTRUMENT OF... DESTINY."



SIR DENIS... DID... YOU... HEAR... TH- THAT?



YES, BLACK JACK. YOUR MICROPHONE PICKED UP FAH LO SUEE'S EVERY APPALLING WORD.

REMEMBER THAT HE CANNOT HEAR YOU, SIR.



FORGOT... SIR DENIS CAN'T ANSWER. TRANSMITTER'S ONLY ONE-WAY.

WELL, I'D BETTER SNAP TO. WHERE'S THE CHINAMAN?

HE WENT WITH RESTON AND LEIKO INTO THAT CAVE IN THE MOUNTAIN--



-- TO FIND FU MANCHU'S FORTRESS, THEY SAID.

FIGURES. YOU STILL GOT THE TOOLS OF YOUR TRADE, LARNER?



YEAH. THEY'RE STILL HERE IN THE WRECK. INTACT.

WELL, IF FU MANCHU CAN MAKE GOOD ON HIS CRAZY SCHEME... AND WHEN THE TIME COMES, LARNER... USE 'EM.

WHETHER WE'RE OUT OR NOT.

RIGHT.

"I'M HEADED FOR THE CAVE OF FU'S MOUNTAIN, SIR DENIS. YOU PROBABLY HEARD LARNER SAY THAT THE OTHER THREE ARE ALREADY INSIDE."

"WONDER IF THEY'VE FOUND ANYTHING YET? BUT THEN, GUESS I'LL FIND OUT ABOUT THAT SOON ENOUGH."

FINE TIME TO BE TAKING A ONE-DRAGONPOWER RIDE THROUGH FU MANCHU'S TUNNEL OF HATE... AT LEAST FOR YOU TWO LOVEBIRDS.

OUR CELESTIAL LEADER'S SON-- SHANG-CHI-- AND TWO OTHERS!

THEY HAVE PENETRATED THE MOUNTAIN-- AND WILL SOON INVADE THIS VERY FORTRESS!

REMAIN HERE AND MONITOR THEIR PROGRESS. I WILL INFORM GLORIOUS FU MANCHU AT ONCE.

MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO ENJOY THE SCENERY IN THIS CAVERN, SIR DENIS, IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GONNA HAVE TO GET MY TOES WET, AND THIS WATER LOOKS BLOODY FRIGID.

SO GET READY FOR SOME BLANK TAPE--

--CUZ THE SITUATION'S GETTIN' A LITTLE STICKY AN' STEALTHY.

MAY BE ABLE TO SNEAK IN IN A FEW WHISPERS NOW AN' THEN...

"... AND IF I'M CAUGHT, YOU'LL LIKELY HEAR SOME LOUDER STUFF, OF COURSE-- ME SCREAMIN' MY FOOL HEAD OFF WHILE FU 'INTERROGATES' ME."

--NOW INTRODUCE TO YOU THE ACHIEVEMENT WHICH WILL PROVE THAT I AM WORTHY OF BEING YOUR RULER--

--THAT I AM WORTHY OF RULING THE NEW WORLD-- THE WORLD WHICH SHALL AGAIN EMBRACE THE GLORY OF OLD CHINA!

I NOW **INTRODUCE** TO YOU-- **MY NEW SON!** HE WHO IS **ALSO MY ANCESTOR**. HE WHO WAS THE **FIRST DISCOVERER** OF THE IMMORTALITY SERUM **ELIXIR VITAE**. HE WHO MET DEATH **NOT** IN OLD AGE, BUT THROUGH THE VIOLENT **DECEIT** OF THE WEST!

HE WHO WAS, AND NOW **IS AGAIN**, THE **GREATEST WARRIOR** IN ALL OF ANCIENT CHINA'S **HISTORY!** HE WHOSE **LIFE** HAS BEEN RESTORED BY ME. HE WHO IS NOW MY **BIOLOGICALLY-RESURRECTED OFFSPRING-- MY NEW SON!**

KNOW THAT HE **LIVES AGAIN**, THROUGH THE GRACE OF MY **DIVINE POWER--** AND **HAIL ME AS YOUR LEADER!**

FOR I NOW **INTRODUCE** TO YOU-- **THE IMMORTAL SHAKA KHARN!**

HAIL!

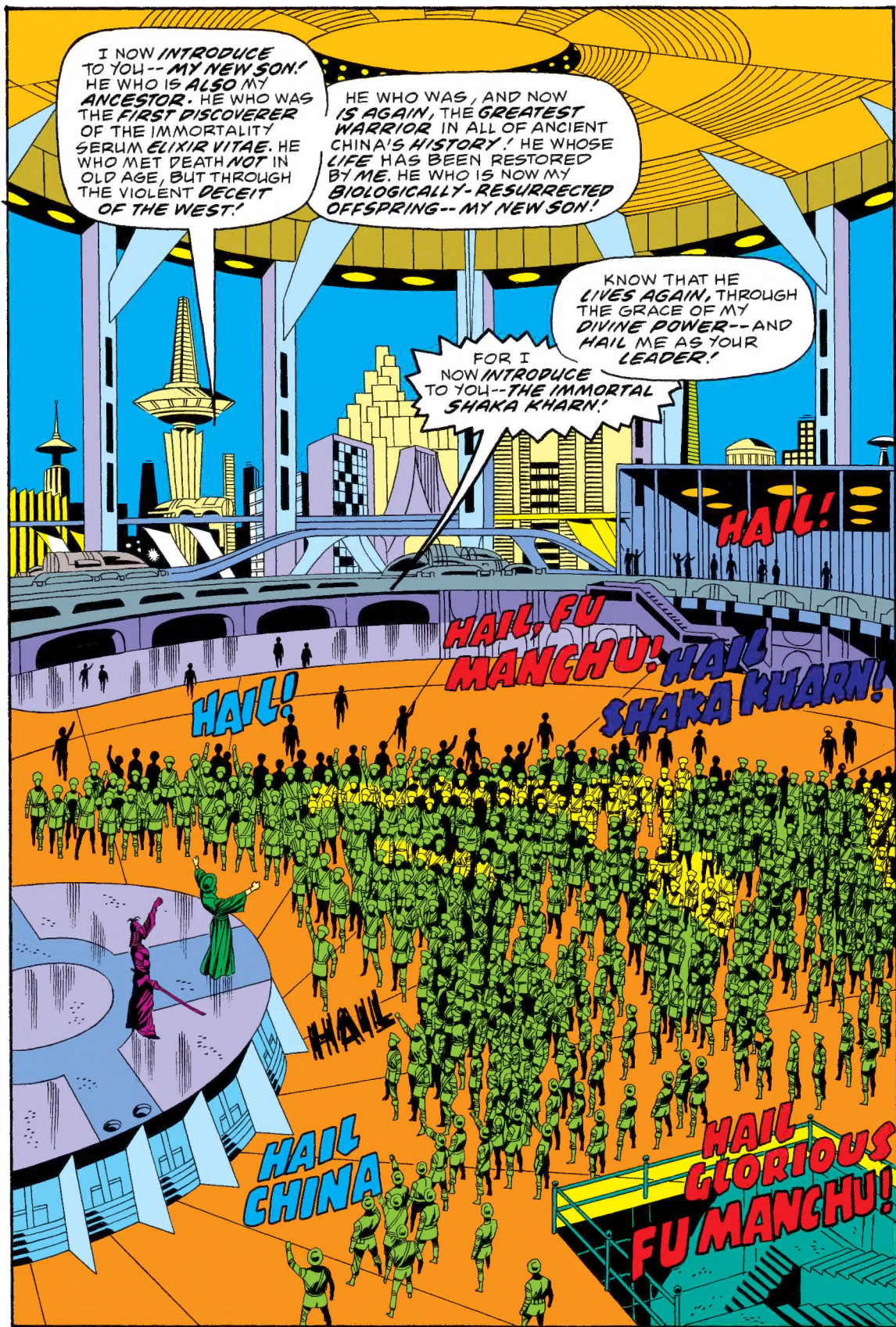
HAIL, FU MANCHU! **HAIL SHAKA KHARN!**

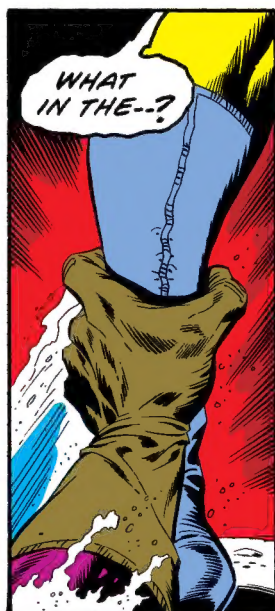
HAIL!

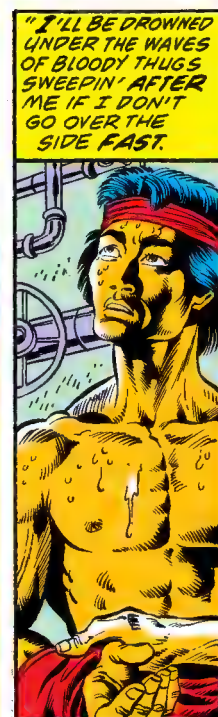
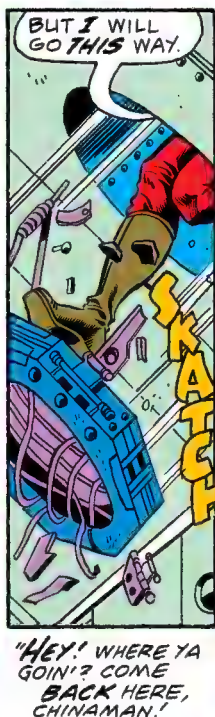
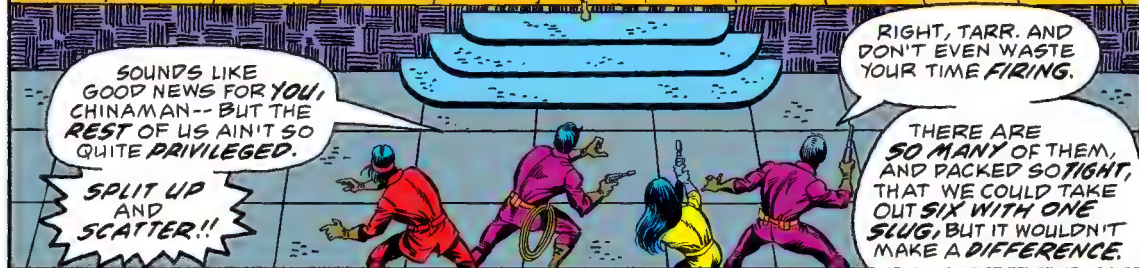
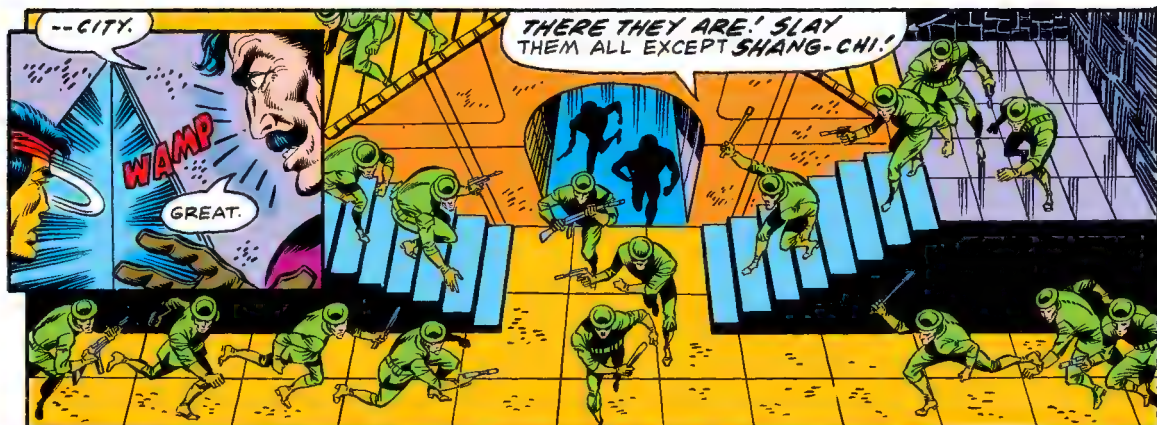
HAIL

HAIL CHINA

HAIL GLORIOUS FU MANCHU!







"REACHED BOTTOM AN' IT LOOKS LIKE I'M SAFE, SIR DENIS. NOBODY BUT ME DOWN ON THIS LEVEL. STILL THINKIN' ABOUT THE CHINAMAN, THOUGH -- WONDERIN' WHAT MADE HIM PULL SUCH A CRAZY STUNT."

"HE'S DIFFERENT THESE DAYS. THERE'S MORE FLINT AN' FIRE IN HIM NOW-- AND LESS TIME FOR PATIENCE. HE'S MAD AT US AN' Madder AT HIS FATHER."

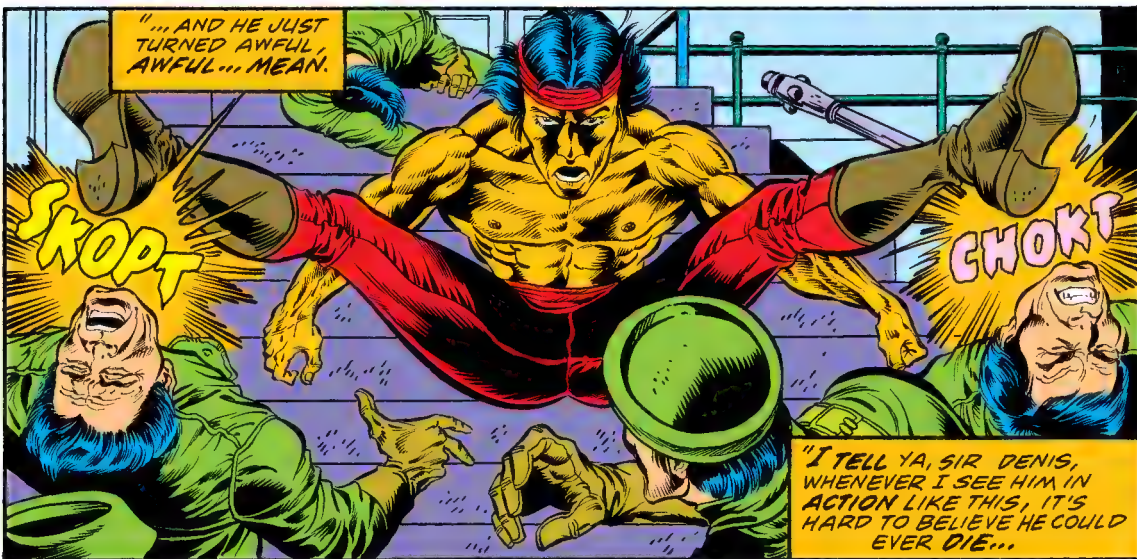
"I GOT A HUNCH HE'S HEADED FOR HIS FATHER RIGHT NOW. THAT CRACK ABOUT THE SI-FAN TAKIN' HIM ALIVE MAY'VE BEEN THE LAST STRAW FOR HIM."

"IN FACT, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF HE'S ON HIS WAY TO MURDER FU MAN--"



"YEP. I CAN SEE HIM NOW, SIR DENIS."

"HE'S UP ON SOME STAIRS ON THE LEVEL ABOVE ME..."



"... AND HE JUST TURNED AWFUL, AWFUL... MEAN."

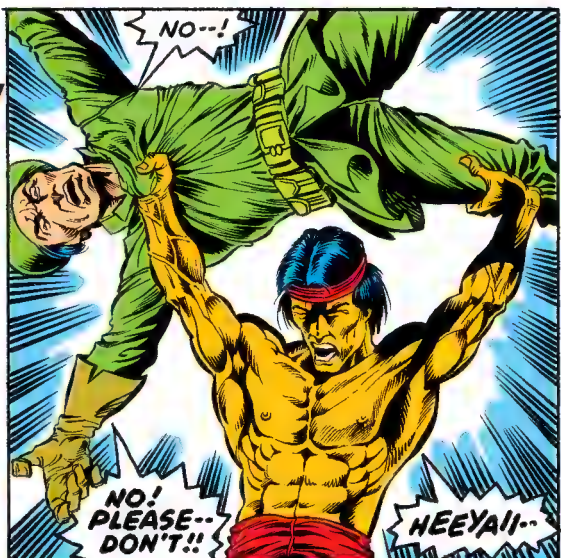
"I TELL YA, SIR DENIS, WHENEVER I SEE HIM IN ACTION LIKE THIS, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE HE COULD EVER DIE..."



"...AN' IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE THAT HE COULD EVER BE KILLED."

THAP

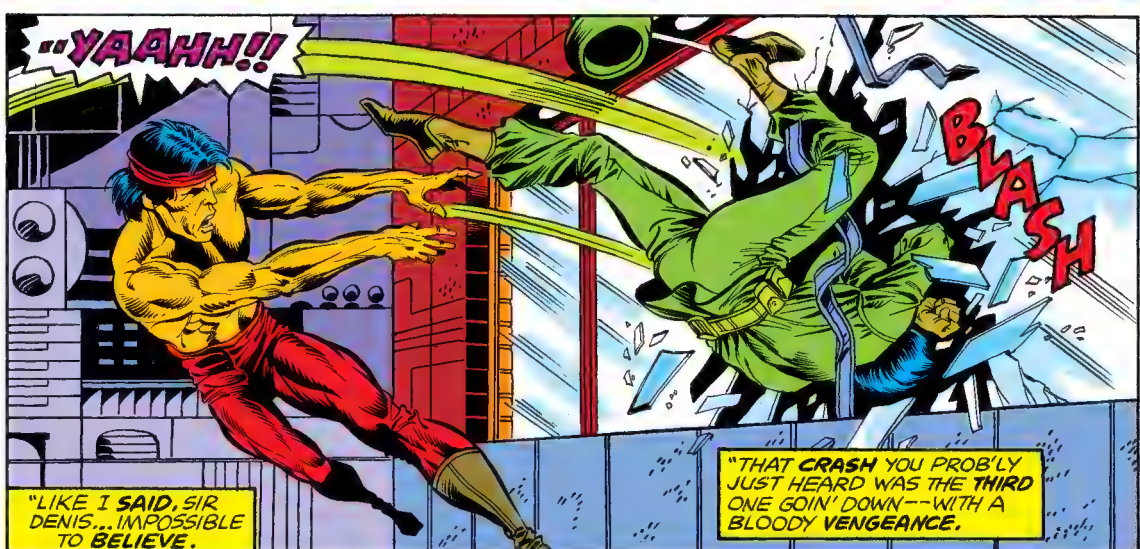
SPAM!



NO--!

NO! PLEASE-- DON'T!!

HEEYAI!

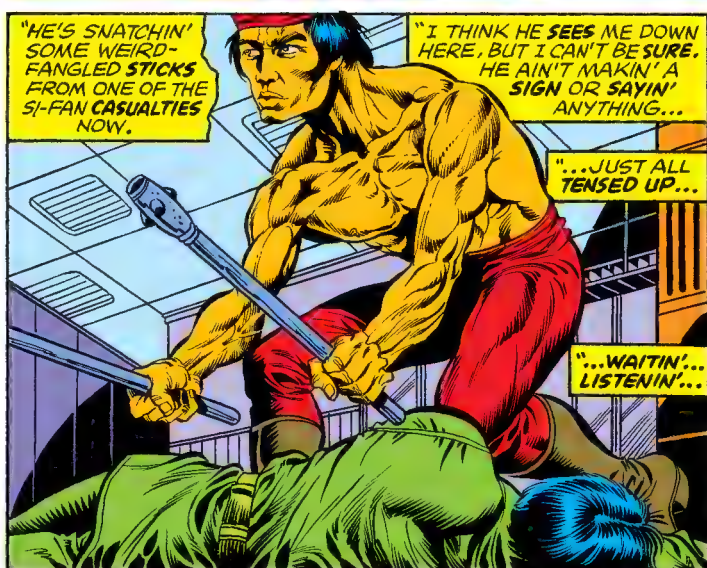


YAAHH!!

BLASH

"LIKE I SAID, SIR DENIS... IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE."

"THAT CRASH YOU PROBABLY JUST HEARD WAS THE THIRD ONE GOIN' DOWN-- WITH A BLOODY VENGEANCE."



"HE'S SNATCHIN' SOME WEIRD-FANGLED STICKS FROM ONE OF THE SI-FAN CASUALTIES NOW."

"I THINK HE SEES ME DOWN HERE, BUT I CAN'T BE SURE. HE AIN'T MAKIN' A SIGN OR SAYIN' ANYTHING..."

"...JUST ALL TENSED UP..."

"...WAITIN'... LISTENIN'..."



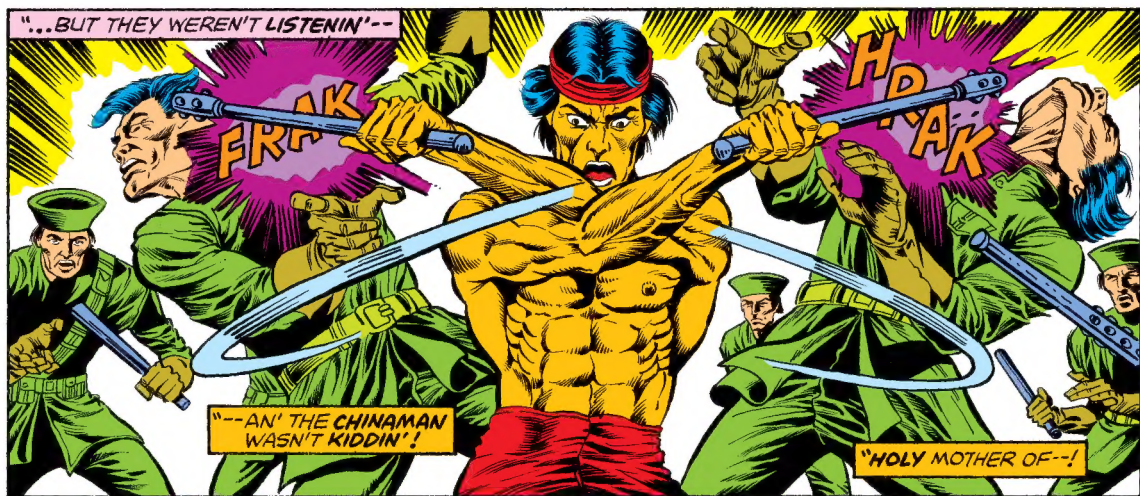
"... PROWLIN' ALONG LIKE A PANTHER- DEMON NOW, CAGEY AN' CAUTIOUS... BUT READY."

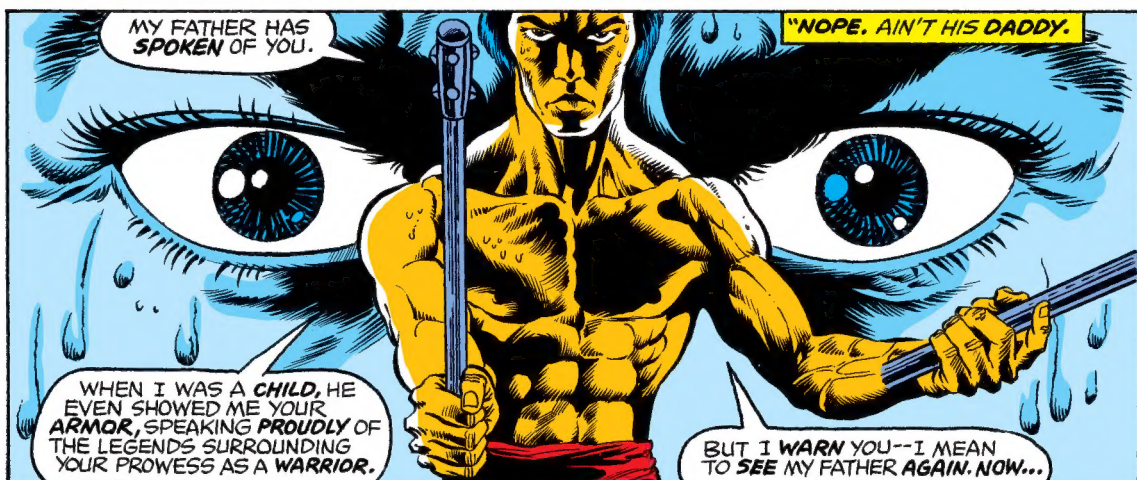
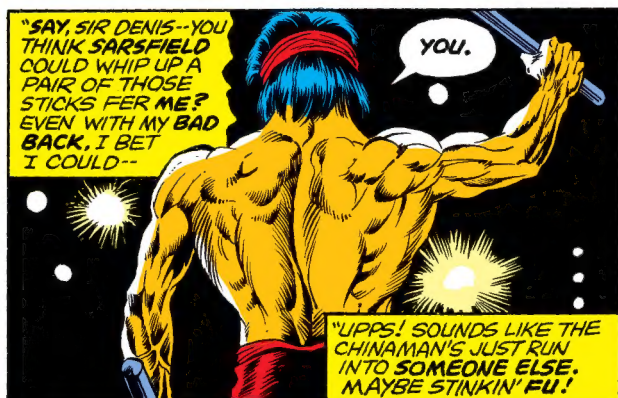
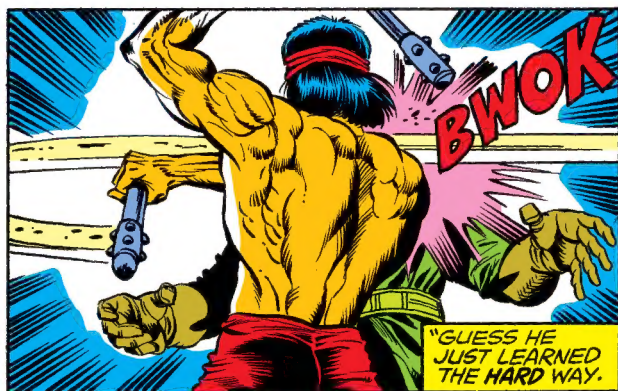
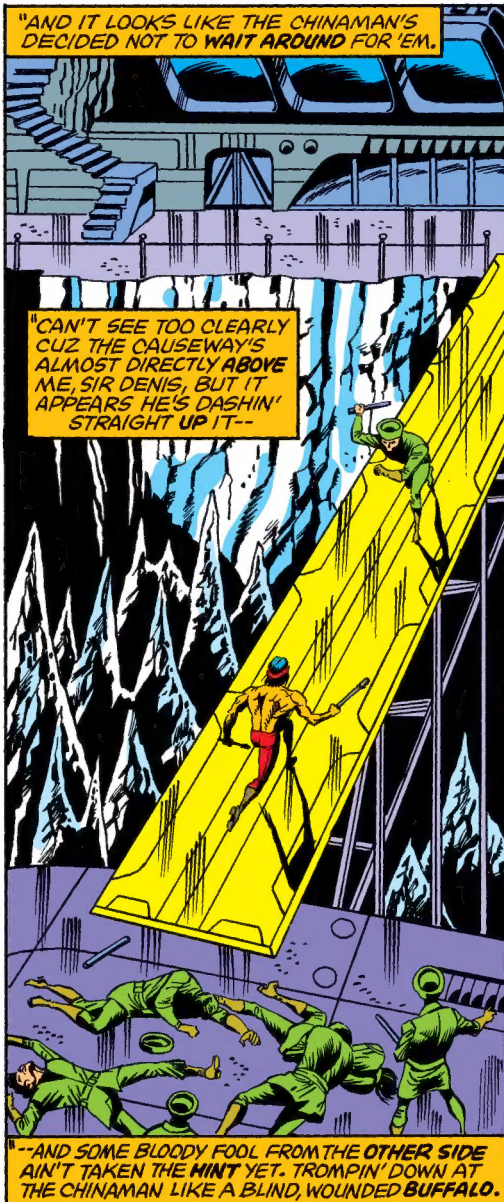
"THINK I'LL FOLLOW HIM ALONG FROM DOWN HERE--"

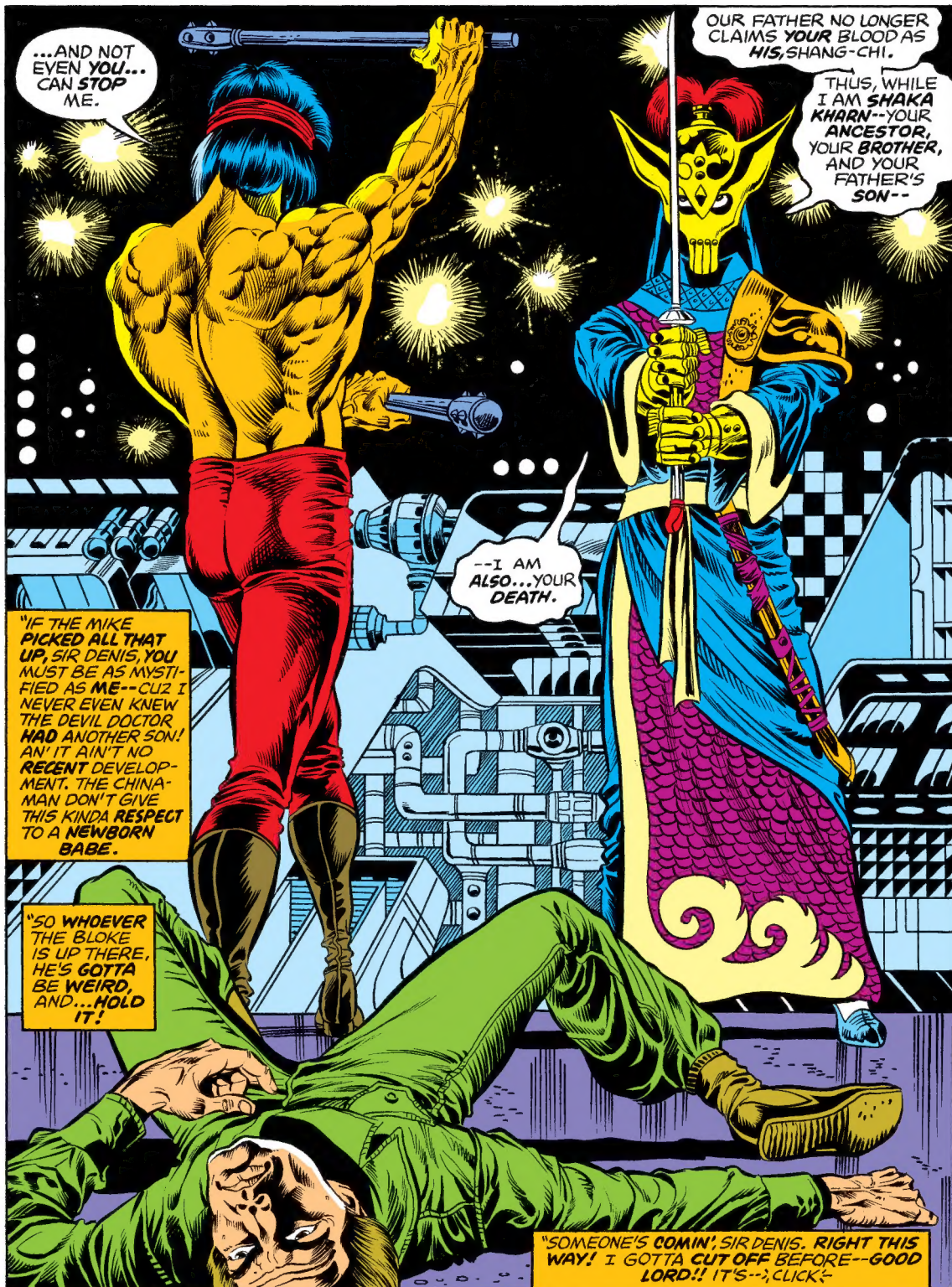


"AND HE'S IN BAD TROUBLE NOW, BACKED UP TO THE EDGE. THERE'S A SKINNY CAUSEWAY UP THERE, LEADING UP TO A HIGHER LEVEL ON THE OTHER SIDE BEHIND ME. AN' BY THE WAY, I'M RUBBIN' SHOULDERS WITH A FOREST OF JAGGED ICE-SPIKES NOW..."









...AND NOT
EVEN YOU...
CAN STOP
ME.

OUR FATHER NO LONGER
CLAIMS YOUR BLOOD AS
HIS, SHANG-CHI.

THUS, WHILE
I AM SHAKA
KHARN--YOUR
ANCESTOR,
YOUR BROTHER,
AND YOUR
FATHER'S
SON--

--I AM
ALSO...YOUR
DEATH.

"IF THE MIKE
PICKED ALL THAT
UP, SIR DENIS, YOU
MUST BE AS MYSTI-
FIED AS ME--CUZ I
NEVER EVEN KNEW
THE DEVIL DOCTOR
HAD ANOTHER SON!
AN' IT AIN'T NO
RECENT DEVELOP-
MENT. THE CHINA-
MAN DON'T GIVE
THIS KINDA RESPECT
TO A NEWBORN
BABE.

"SO WHOEVER
THE BLOKE
IS UP THERE,
HE'S GOTTA
BE WEIRD,
AND...HOLD
IT!

"SOMEONE'S COMIN', SIR DENIS. RIGHT THIS
WAY! I GOTTA CUT OFF BEFORE--GOOD
LORD!! IT'S--;CLICK--

NEXT ISSUE: PERHAPS THE MOST
EMOTIONALLY GALVANIZING EPISODE
IN THE ENTIRE SERIES! SHANG-CHI'S
EPIC BATTLE WITH THE IMMORTAL
SHAKA KHARN (AND MUCH MORE,
OF COURSE) IN--

**PART V
(SIR DENIS
NAYLAND
SMITH):**

**THE AFFAIR OF THE
AGENT WHO DIED!**

MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

©6 MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Mr. Moench, Mr. Gulacy:

That little circle on the cover of MOKF #45 says it all: Truly this issue was indeed "an outstanding achievement in comics art."

Doug, your careful plotting and precise narration have long astounded me, but never as they have in the past few issues. Chi's feelings of being entrapped in evil games, being bound by friendship and love to the workings of death and deceit, his anguish over his own indecision — I don't just read these things, I *feel* them. They move me.

Also — and what is perhaps the most unique aspect of this magazine — I love the way the intrigue develops around Chi independently of his own will, and how Chi's unwilling, impulsive actions are always manipulated by (or beneficial to) another.

Paul, you also astound me; your illustrations so carefully—so delicately—illumine the plot, the action breathes with fire and life, and your characters are realistically human. Your pencil point, I'll wager, turns into a movie camera when the moon blooms full.

All in all, I've never seen martial arts or spy stories handled better, or by a better team. I'm reminded of my father telling me of going to the movies each week, nickel in hand, eager to catch the latest chapter of the current serial. Well, I shell out my thirty cents once a month, and y'know...I think I get the better deal. Continue with the masterworks, please.

Lanson Armstrong
Box 496
Burton, OH 44021

Sure.

Dear Great, Fantastic, Wonderf--

Aww...skip it! Doug & Paul's work is beyond words, okay?

Harvey Chin
4635 Mia Circle
San Jose, CA 95136

Okay.

Dear Doug,

Since readers are finally commenting on Reston's great-uncle, I feel compelled to point out that it's about time you referred to his great-grandfather Mycroft (and I hope I'm getting this family tree right). After all, Mycroft had a few talents himself.

I'm an admirer of Holmes myself, and I would have mentioned you and Val Mayerik in my dedication to THE PLATYPUS OF DOOM AND OTHER NIHILISTS along with Dennis O'Neil, but your adaptation of HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES hadn't yet hit the stands when I wrote "The Clam of Catastrophe," my own addition to the Holmes canon. Now I feel like I slighted you somehow, since I mentioned all the writers besides Doyle whose work I consulted while writing the novella.

In conclusion, while I didn't particularly care for all the work you've done for Marvel in the past, your average is definitely improving with time, and now I await many of your comics with the anticipation that I do Gerber's, Englehart's, and a few other people. MASTER OF KUNG FU, on the whole, is written with an admirable passion, with an honest view of the human condition that approaches the highest the medium has yet offered. In the future (now I reveal myself as a true, jaded fan), I would like to see you expand Shang-Chi's world, to have him meet other characters in the Marvel universe (besides the obvious, like Iron Fist). A few more fantastic

issues (as opposed to the spy stuff and Fu Manchu stuff) would give the series as a whole more variety. Although, come to think of it, it may not really need it.

Anyway, thanks for the enjoyment, and I hope you don't take my minor carping too seriously. After all, this is a letter of praise and you certainly deserve it.

Paul Gulacy certainly deserves praise, too. Thanks, Paul!

Arthur Byron Cover
North Hollywood, CA 91601

Besides THE PLATYPUS, Arthur has also written AUTUMN ANGELS, which may interest readers of this and other Marvel books — and about which none other than Doug's "ambivalent idol" Harlan Ellison has raved. Pick it up and give it a read; it's *real* goofy.

Dear Doug and Paul,

You managed to fool me. I thought Leiko would be the Mole.

Ann Nichols
4864 Sioux Avenue
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

Hah!

Dear Doug and Paul,

Amazing little zen you got there.

Watching your magazine unfold its various scenes, plots, and philosophical tidbits is sort of like watching this tree outside my window bloom a bit more every day. Good energy.

Denny Sargent
41 Locust
Rye, NY 10580

Dear Marvel,

Why? Why is it that this book constantly remains at the top of the ladder in quality? Even within Marvel, MASTER OF KUNG FU has no peer.

May I quote?

Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart...

Try to love the questions themselves...

Do not now seek the answers,

which cannot be given

because you would not be able to live them.

And the point is,

to live everything.

Live the questions now,

Perhaps you will then

gradually,

without noticing it,

Live along some distant day

into the answers.

—Rainer Maria Rilke; *Letters to a Young Poet*

Chi must find certain answers. The life-and-death atmosphere of his reality precludes waiting. But Chi's "forced" answers lead only to more questions waiting for more answers.

And waiting changes the question as often as the answer.

Whew. Thanks, guys. You do keep my head from goin' rusty sometimes.

Mark R. Kausch
2125 North Ave., #5
Sacramento, CA 95838

And thank you, Mark — as well as all the other readers whose unusual and atypical letters appear on this page — for keeping our *letters column* from goin' rusty. Oh, we still enjoy receiving the "typical" deeply analytical and eloquently appreciative letters as much as ever (and we're saving a whole slew of 'em for possible future publication), but we just thought you might get a kick out of the foregoing change of pace.

Until next issue's return-to-normal, then...be good.